

Remarks

Currently pending are claims 1-12. Claim 1 has been amended to further define X and Y in the compound of formula (1). No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendment and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Perrin et al. (US Pat. No. 4,180,664). Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of increasing the depth of shade of dyed natural or synthetic polyamide fibre materials, which comprises treating the fibre material before, during or after dyeing with a liquor comprising a compound of formula (1). In comparison, Perrin discloses a method for improving the properties of dyeings on cellulose fibers. Therefore, since each and every limitation is not expressly disclosed in Perrin et al., claim 1 and all claims depending on claim 1 are not anticipated by Perrin et al.

Moreover, to further distinguish Applicants claimed method from the method disclosed in Perrin et al., Applicants have amended the compound of formula (1) by deleting the species where X and Y are defined as $-N^+R_3R_4R_5A^-$. Thus, Perrin et al.'s method not only uses a different substrate than Applicants claimed method (cellulose fibers v. polyamide fibers), it also treats the fibers with a completely different compound than Applicants claimed method. Therefore, Applicants claimed method is neither

anticipated nor rendered obvious by the method disclosed in Perrin et al. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 1-4, 6-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perrin et al. and further in view of Gerendas et al. (US Pat. No. 3,963,714). Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

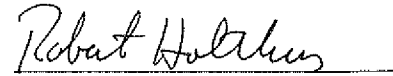
For the reasons set forth above, Applicants claimed method is not anticipated or obvious in view of Perrin et al. alone. Adding the teachings of Gerendas et al. also does not bring one skilled in the art closer to Applicants claimed method.

In particular, Gerendas et al. teach the use of quaternary ammonium salts as a retarder in the dyeing of polyacrylonitrile fibers. Thus, like Perrin et al., Gerendas et al.'s method not only uses a different substrate than Applicants claimed method (polyacrylonitrile fiber v. polyamide fibers), it also treats the fibers with a completely different compound than Applicants claimed method. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12 are clearly distinguished from the publications cited above and are not obvious in view of these publications.

The Examiner also rejected claim 11 over the publications cited and further in view of Offord et al. (US 1004/0055093). However, Offord et al. neither teaches nor suggests a method of improving the depth of shade of natural or synthetic polyamide fibers by treating the fibers with a compound of formula (1) as presently claimed. Therefore, the above combination of publications does not render claim 11 obvious and Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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